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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/837,713	04/17/2001	Masaki Kotani	81800.0154	9170
26021	7590	06/27/2005	EXAMINER	
HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P. 500 S. GRAND AVENUE SUITE 1900 LOS ANGELES, CA 90071-2611			LAMB, TWYLER MARIE	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2622		

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/837,713	KOTANI, MASAKI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Twyler M. Lamb	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 March 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Momose et al. (Momose) (US 5,959,742) in view of Naito et al. (Naito) (US 6,628,417).

With regards to claims 1-21, Momose either explicitly or inherently teaches all of the claimed limitations which is evidenced by the fact that the present invention claims an image forming apparatus for printing images on recording sheets supplied from a particular paper cassette, including a plurality of paper cassettes for storing recording sheets respectively, memorizing a plurality of print types in a predetermined order from a highest priority to a lowest priority, memorizing a plurality of comparative print types which are to be compared with the plurality of print types respectively, and controller for selecting a first paper cassette that stores recording sheets suited to print an image and has a comparative print type of possible highest priority in the respective memory and selecting a second paper cassette that stores recording sheets suited to print the image and has a comparative print type to be compared with the print type of the first paper

cassette in the second memory, and for selecting one of the first and second paper cassettes based on a predetermined criterion as an ultimate paper cassette and printing the image on one or more recording sheets supplied from the ultimate paper cassette.

Momose discloses a recording apparatus with plural sheet cassettes of different sizes, a cassette selecting method consists of calculating cassette information for each cassette based on the length and width of the image to be recorded, comparing the cassette information for the different cassettes and selecting an optimum cassette according to the comparison. The cassette information becomes larger in magnitude as the priority for selection becomes higher, represent various image forming modes (See col 2, line 58 – col 6, line 4).

Melrose does not specifically teach a second table for memorizing a plurality of comparative print types which are compared with the plurality of print types in the priority table.

Naito discloses data communications apparatus that includes a second table for memorizing a plurality of comparative print types which are compared with the plurality of print types in the priority table (col 15, line 30 – col 16, line 24; col 23, lines 12-47).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Melrose to include a second table for memorizing a plurality of comparative print types which are compared with the plurality of print types in the priority table as taught by Naito. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have modified Melrose by the teaching of Naito

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to print an image in accordance with the print order as taught by Naito in col 15, line 30 – col 16.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Twyler M. Lamb whose telephone number is 571-272-7406. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon, Tues and Thurs 6:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Twyler M. Lamb
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2622